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JULY 17, 2025 • VOL. 44 • NO. 29
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ILLUSTRATION BY MCKENZIE YOUNG-ROY

EUGENE WEEKLY

PEELING OUT

RACING JUNKERS WITH
24 HOURS OF LEMONS



CELEBRATE LATINO CULTURE PAGE 6

A BI-MART CLOSING? PAGE 7

OREGON ASIAN CELEBRATION PAGE 17

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who to blame

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OPINION

letters

AMAZON, SRADER-HATERS, BIRDS AND TRASH

Please Reply by July 22

In response to the article “Possible Amazon Distribution Center up for Public Comment” (EW, 7/10), as a local resident and breather of our often-already polluted air, reading this made me absolutely furious. I want to invite fellow readers and residents of this valley to submit public comments urging the LRAPA to deny this air pollution permit application by July 22.

Corporations can claim they will not exceed their permitted limits, and that their emissions will not impact non-permitted areas, but how will that be tracked and enforced? They are trying to get an air pollution permit for 2,592 vehicle trips per day. The main facility would be the size of six football fields. In order to build this distribution center, 9 acres of (carbon-storing) wetlands will need to be paved over.

Our valley often gets temperature inversions which trap and stagnate the air, causing emissions to collect and build up while the inversion is in place.

We also must think of the combined health impact of seasonal wildfire smoke with a drastic uptick in vehicle emissions.

Please join me in submitting public comments urging the LRAPA to deny this air pollution permit application by July 22.

Something I learned this week from a paralegal at an environmental law firm is that even if public comments don’t sway the decision either way, they can still be very helpful in future lawsuits (and there will be lawsuits — J.H. Baxter, anyone?).

River Shepherd
Springfield

See You on the Streets

I can't help but laugh regarding Jerry Ritter's rather humorous thoughts regard-

ing the “Srader Haters” marching in the streets (EW, 7/10). First of all, Doyle Srader — aka Dr. Srader, instructor of speech and communications at Bushnell University — believes marches in the streets is taking Donald Trump's bait. Looks like Srader took the bait and voted for Trump?

Back to Ritter — look in the mirror and you will see an immigrant, unless you are a Native American. Yep, the 34-count felon Trump, bankrupted six times, lied to the MAGA cult and they took the bait on Nov. 5, 2024! Yep, Day 1, the groceries dropped like Trump's comb-over on a windy day! Yep, within 24 hours “Bone Spurs in the Heel Trump” would end the war in Ukraine! Yep, deport immigrants. Where's my lettuce?

Yep, Ritter seems to have a problem with destructive riots. Yep, Trump patriot rioters on Jan. 6, 2021 resulted in the death of two D.C. police officers! How about that for backing the Blue? Yep, ol' Donnie believes in the rule of law — he pardoned the 1,600 convicted insurrectionists! The MAGA thugs caused an estimated \$2.1 billion in damages to America's Capitol Building! Yep, Trump golfing. So far, \$30 million of taxpayers' dollars! Yep, How about the Jeffery Epstein files MAGA voters were promised? Now that's funny!

Yep, this Vietnam veteran will be in the streets fighting for democracy and the constitutional rights of everyone who is in America.

Frank Harper
Springfield

Councilor Keating Responds

Regarding a letter from Sam Parker (EW, 6/26):

Like you, I mourn for the loss of CAHOOTS. However, I remain hopeful and supportive of the shared vision for a new CAHOOTS-like program in Eugene.

As I understand it, former CAHOOTS staff, now Willamette Valley Crisis Care, have formed a board as they seek a nonprofit entity to administer their proposed “CAHOOTS 2.0” crisis on the streets program.

To capture vital Medicaid matching

THIS MODERN WORLD

WHOOPS! I ACCIDENTALLY RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO A NAZI POST ON "X," THE EVERYTHING APP!



WHOOPS! I ACCIDENTALLY RESTORED A BUNCH OF FORMERLY-BANNED NAZI ACCOUNTS ON "X"!



WHOOPS! I ACCIDENTALLY GAVE A NAZI SALUTE AT AN INAUGURAL RALLY! TWICE!



WHOOPS! I ACCIDENTALLY POSTED A SERIES OF HILARIOUS, NAZI-THEMED PUNS ON "X"!



WHOOPS! I ACCIDENTALLY TRAINED MY A.I. TO GO FULL NAZI! IT WAS LITERALLY CALLING ITSELF "MECHA-HITLER"!



WOW, I WONDER WHAT COMICAL, NAZI-THEMED MISHAP AWAITS ME TODAY!



by TOM TOMORROW
July 17, 2025 - July 24, 2025
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dollars and remain compliant, WVCC must secure a responsible nonprofit partner to oversee and administer the operation.

I applaud the perseverance of dedicated WVCC leaders and Friends of CAHOOTS. Through WVCC's dogged determination, the city of Eugene's budget committee and city council recently approved \$500,000 one-time funds to support the restoration of a new CAHOOTS-like program. We also directed the city manager to explore options to fund upward of \$2.2 million in support of a mental health crisis response team.

Meanwhile, our local legislative delegation has approved \$14.5 million for the erection of a desperately needed Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center. Further, state law mandates Oregon counties deliver Mobile Crisis Services (modeled after CAHOOTS). These critical investments offer trauma informed, person-centered services such as deescalation and response to persons in a crisis throughout Lane County.

Residents can call or text 988 for MCS to respond to a mental health crisis.

And in an effort to be most accessible, you're always welcome to contact me directly to share your perspective at 541-515-3819.

*Matt Keating,
City Councilor (Ward 2)
Eugene*

Help the Birds

My neighborhood in Harlow is great. But there have been changes.

One reason it's such a great 'hood is

all the big, old trees providing cooling and habitat for other creatures. These trees keep coming down, some by storm, some by EWEB, but most often it's the homeowner. And the results are now showing in the deteriorating bird populations.

Chickadee chirps used to fill the air. It's become rare as with flickers. I haven't heard a varied thrush, let alone seen one, in three years. Currently I'm watching a crow family desperately trying to find food for their clutch. As trees come down birds lose habitat and food source. Birds eat bugs and bugs live in the trees. Our extra dry, warm spring, and the sudden temperature change in February, did not help the bugs either. Nor do the pesticide companies that descend on the hood each spring, on their hover boards, convincing my neighbors they need pest control.

They don't unless there is a pest problem inside their home. Gardens are supposed to have bugs. Without them, we won't have birds. While here, please keep your cats indoors. The statistics of bird deaths by house cats is nauseating.

*Tim Gardner
Eugene*

Trash, Trash, Trash

Thank you, Bob Boender, for your letter in the June 19 issue, "It's the Trash." Thank you, *Eugene Weekly*, for publishing it. This messy topic has gone too long without it being addressed.

It's like an elephant in the living room. He (Boender) couldn't have been any clearer when he said there's a "reluctance" to even mention it (unhoused leaving

their trash behind them) for fear of being thought of as hard-hearted. Well, I am very soft hearted for Mother Earth. To see how her beautiful surfaces are degraded with garbage and trash makes me sick and angry.

Nine out of 10 times I've witnessed folks that have laid down for a while on sidewalks, or the median grassy areas, and leave behind their trash.

Or, they've emptied garbage cans or dumpsters, and never put back what they couldn't use.

This is so not right. Just because they are temporarily unhoused does not mean they don't get to use trash cans.

I don't mind folks sleeping on sidewalks. I very much mind what they leave.

Couldn't everyone be a little kinder and clean up after themselves?

*Nadine Powell
Eugene*

On the Other Hand

I live downtown, seemingly a mecca for homeless camping. Instead of gnashing my teeth as the tents pop up, I greet the campers with a smile, exchange pleasantries, and then ask if a garbage bag or two would be helpful? If all goes well, I advise them of the trash bins at the park a half a block west. This has worked beyond all expectations in more than one instance.

A little humanity and good will goes a long way.

*Susan Brenner
Eugene*

Protesting Matters

Regarding Doyle Srader's 6/26 opinion

column in the *Weekly*, I think he fails to realize that by coming to protests, we let others know that there is a significant number of people who object to the Trump agenda. This encourages some or many of those who feel isolated or confused in their dissent from that agenda: they are not alone in their alienation from his administration and its acts.

The plans that he offers as an alternative to protests are so vague as to be unworkable. And what about his own plan: to whom is he sending money? For whom is he knocking on voters' doors or making phone calls? Where is he using his vaunted communications skills to make positive change? I didn't read any of this in his column.

All I get from his column is a condescending effort to discourage people who are embracing a kind of activism from doing anything at all. I have to wonder: since he works at a school "committed to preparing students for purpose-driven lives within a Christ-centered environment," is his own purpose to sabotage Trump's opposition? After all, many nominal Christians believe that they have a religion-driven mission to support Trump. Perhaps Srader is one of them.

*Marilyn Robert
Eugene*



Illustration by Jade Wilkerson

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WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

A search for loving kindness in a hate-filled world

My heart feels deeply broken by the hatred and deep cruelty — especially concerning our asylum seekers, migrants and immigrants — and the vindictiveness of our current administration.

I know the strategy is to create chaos and overwhelm and have us run inside our houses and hide under our beds. I often feel powerless. What can one person do to save American democracy, to rescue the hurt, the lonely, the victims of unjust wars?

For weeks now I have been hearing Fred Rogers' words in my head: "Won't you be my neighbor?"

Yes, I need to begin in my neighborhood. Around the corner from me is a courageous 82-year-old neighbor who lives in a small studio apartment. Like many elders she does have her health issues, doesn't drive, lives alone, lives on a Medicaid income. She has two wonderful daughters here in Eugene.

Her daughters, however, both work full time and aren't always available, but neighbors do try to be there for her. Her loving dog companion, Abby, recently passed away. Abby was nearly 19 years old, was blind, couldn't hear well and needed lots of attention. When Abby experienced a total collapse, this neighbor was alone and didn't know what to do. She reached out to a neighbor across the street who helped her get a vet who came to her house to help Abby die peacefully.

This 82-year-old neighbor really gives me more than she might know. She loves to read and we often share books we have found in the free box across the street. Sitting on her porch or inside her small living space, she and our extroverted selves get filled up with intellectual

stimuli and heartfelt discussions about our present and often past life experiences.

Living alone, I often have leftovers from the meals I cook. I love to share portions with another neighbor, who lives in a nearby tiny house. I honestly just love hanging out with her for her company, wisdom and humor. As a true homeless activist, she inspires me, and I often see how much more I need to learn about becoming a compassionate activist.

I have found neighbors who have rescued me from technology issues or helped when clearing my steps from ice and snow, and even filled me up with hope when I felt down and sad or just plain lonely.

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? What random acts of kindness can neighbors do? I try to pick up an extra *Eugene Weekly* for my stay-at-home neighbor. Recently, a young woman wanted to borrow my water hose to squirt her dog on one of our hot days. While she was spraying her dog, I ran inside my house to bring her dog a dog biscuit. Long ago, I got rid of all my front yard grass and have tried to create a raised bed and parking-strip garden of flowers and vegetables for the whole neighborhood to enjoy!

As a homeowner, I know house upkeep is hard to do. I try to hire self-employed helpers rather than those from larger agencies. I see my ideal neighborhood being one where tools and skills are shared so we can help each other with our projects. And I know I truly need to compassionately listen to people and not try to become a problem solver!

Finally, let's not forget our asylum seekers and immigrant neighbors who especially need our loving understanding of why they have come to our country. We once believed in the motto: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free."

Several years ago I became an Oregon Community

Asylum Network sponsor for Luisa (not her real name) from El Salvador. I have written several *EW Local* and *Vocal* essays about our experiences together. Luisa walked through several countries to come into the U.S. legally. She was seeking safety from several harsh and brutal experiences. And she was seeking to find a job to be able to create a home here in Oregon while also sending money home to her Salvadoran family.

With the help of Lane Community College's English as a second language classes, she has become fluent in English and currently has a job with benefits where she works more than full-time and pays taxes. I have learned a tremendous amount from all the asylum seekers I have been privileged to know. These immigrants are hardworking, strong and loving neighbors. We need them!

So what can each and every one of us do to combat the inhumane cruelty, blatant hate and discrimination we are currently experiencing in our country?

It sounds so simple to say we all need to be more compassionate and kind, but yes, we all do need each and every day to find ways in our states, in our counties and cities and neighborhoods to be loving and kind. I try to be appreciative of my grocery checkers, sales clerks, bank tellers and street maintenance workers.

I live right off West 11th where it and several side streets are being radically torn up and repaired. One day I came in contact with a maintenance worker and thanked him for what he was doing to preserve our streets. He truly beamed at my words.

Just treating everyone as a human being who is working for all of us is really simple to do. If I see a neighbor in need, I want to be giving. If I find a stray animal I try to contact Greenhill Humane Society. I want to push our City Council for more low-income housing, job and drug programs to help the homeless. If each of us here in our fair city just did a little for our environment, and did a little for our friends and neighbors, it would add up to a lot. Won't you try being a good neighbor?

Victoria Koch is a retired teacher, a writer, gardener, sponsor through Oregon Community Asylum Network (OCAN) of two asylum seekers, a neighbor and a lover of the positive spirit.

slant — We have stuff

BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> We're just back from the AAN Publishers (as the former Association of Alternative Newsweeklies is now called) conference, where longtime *EW* owner Anita Johnson was posthumously given a lifetime achievement award for her dedication to this paper.

We also went to a dive bar with Tom Tomorrow and got his autograph. The *EW Extra* newsletter — where you can get even more deets on drinks with Tom (aka Dan Perkins) — got a second place award for its snark and fun, and we took home a couple honorable mentions for reporting and photography. Not bad, getting national recognition after coming back from an embezzlement.

>> For those of you following the *EW* embezzlement. Elisha Young, who was indicted by a Lane County grand jury on five felony charges in the case, was arrested, re-arrested and then finally

extradited to Oregon ... is now out of jail under monitored pre-trial release. It's hard to both deal with the trauma of what happened, but also recognize the justice system needs to do its work, but there we are. According to court records, she has a pre-trial conference on August 7.

>> In these grim times, we celebrate the little things. Avelo, aka ICE Air, is leaving the Eugene Airport and the West Coast — shout out to KLCC in their story for noting in our roundup of nonstop flights from Eugene earlier this year, we snubbed Avelo. As long as we are shouting out, *The Register-Guard* had a nice little roundup of Oregon authors and a focus on downtown bookstore J. Michaels.

>> It's getting near time for Best of Eugene, where you, the readers, tell us what you love best about Lane County

(it's called Best of Eugene, but we love the whole damn area). Check out last year's winners at BestofEugene.com and then tell us what categories we are missing! Weigh in to Editor Camilla Mortensen at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. Thanks to all you folks who gave us ideas for (and snarky comments on) our upcoming senior-oriented issue!

>> Our Summer Guide issue in June featured a photo of paddleboarders with their dogs. A reader pointed out to us they should have been wearing life jackets and that reader was right — and we should have had a photo with life jackets. Recent tragedies on our local waterways involving paddleboarders and others are a harsh reminder of that. Don't get on the water without a life jacket; don't think pool toys are flotation devices for rivers. Our rivers and lakes are beautiful, but beautiful things are not always safe.

>> Who has merch? WE DO! Local and Vocal T-shirts, I ❤️ *Eugene Weekly* T-shirts. I ❤️ *Eugene Weekly* (most of the time) shirts, mugs, stickers, water bottles and more. Find it all at Eugene-Weekly.printful.me.

>> Get the Flock out of Eugene. That is what's on the EyesOffEugene.org website that lists concerns with the new AI mass surveillance system being deployed in Eugene and Springfield. The site says 57 "automatic license plate reader" cameras from the company Flock Safety "are capturing every vehicle on Eugene's roads. In Springfield, police are installing 25 of the same cameras." Check it out, as well as the DeFlock website looking to identify all the cameras in the area via our story "DeFlocking the Cameras" at Eugene-Weekly.com.

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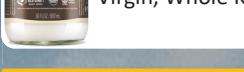


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TRADITIONAL PERFORMERS DANCE IN FRONT OF CROWDS AT NOCHE CULTURAL IN 2024. Photo by Ofelia Guzman Photography

CELEBRATE YOUR CULTURE BOLDLY

The annual Noche Cultural celebration welcomes the community for an evening filled with Latino culture

BY SEIRA KITAGAWA

It is not only the Tuesday Taco nights or sipping tequila. "The event is focused on creating a space for community," Antonio Huerta, director of Comunidad y Herencia Cultural, says of Noche Cultural.

"Creating a space" — while he says this phrase tends to be overused sometimes — Huerta sees the great need for that space,

especially in the Latino community now, as fear has arisen with recent ICE actions and President Donald Trump's immigration policies. He says that a place where people who look alike can gather and speak their own language is needed.

From food, dance to arts, on July 19, Noche Cultural hosts an evening filled with the richness of Latino culture. Noche Cultural first started in 2016, and Huerta says that people come from all over Oregon — Portland, Salem, Medford, and even Klamath Falls — to join in.

"We are social beings," Huerta says, adding, "It's true that Latino people are very family and community oriented." Bouncy houses, soccer, face painting and many more activities for children and families will be going throughout the event.

Comunidad y Herencia Cultural is a nonprofit organization that serves the Latinx community through events such as Noche Cultural, and Huerta also performs *charro*, the art of Mexican horsemanship.

At the event, there will be professional performers and local groups, including high school students, joining in. Huerta says that having youth involved with this event can further encourage them to experience and learn more about their own culture. "It can encourage more identity exploration," Huerta says.

Jessica Zapata, the founder of Eugene Arte Latino, an organization that promotes Latino culture and arts, reaches out to youth to be involved in community activities, including Noche Cultural.

Zapata runs Latinos Unidos, and Angela Sequen joined Noche Cultural three years ago through the Latino cultural club. Sequen became the president of Latinos Unidos in high school and started partic-

ipating at Noche Cultural by helping her mother decorate the space as well as her booth where she has balloon figures.

"It felt very comforting to have a community of people, different backgrounds, cultures, enjoying food, activities," Sequen says. "They cared about things I care about."

Zapata is from Mexico and understands the importance of the space where people can express their language and culture. One of her goals is to get more young people involved in sharing and promoting the Latino culture. She received a lot of positive feedback from students, such as "it is the best experience," by helping out at the event or doing cultural activities. Zapata says that some students haven't been able to visit where their families came from, and getting involved with these types of activities can help them understand the culture better.

Zapata mentors children and youth around the Eugene and Springfield area, around the country and even in Mexico to assist them through cultural experiences. She is also a Spanish teacher at Willamette High School, and she emphasizes the importance of Spanish as a language for people from the Latino community.

'We are social beings. It's true that Latino people are very family and community oriented.'

— ANTONIO HUERTA,
COMUNIDAD Y
HERENCIA CULTURAL

Cuerda, Azúcar Community Group, The Ratie D Band and Baile Con La 4ta Banda/Dance with La 4ta Banda.

Noche Cultural is from 4 pm to 10 pm on Saturday, July 19, at Island Park, 200 West B Street, Springfield. It is \$5 for admission; free for under 15 years old. Visit NocheCultural.com for tickets and more information.

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FRIDAY- LIVE MUSIC

SUNDAY- OPEN MIC



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WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

MONDAY- BLUEGRASS JAM

games available all day / movie shows, 7pm

TUESDAY- TRIVIA WITH GEO

WEDNESDAY- BINGO WITH TY

THURSDAY- LIVE MUSIC

SATURDAY- LIVE MUSIC



BI-MART ON WILLAKENZIE ROAD

Photo by Eve Weston

BI-MART

BI-MART CLOSING WILLAKENZIE STORE?

Also, UO signs development deal

BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL

Bi-Mart appears to be closing its store on Willakenzie Road in northeast Eugene. The Eugene-based general-merchandise chain hasn't announced the closure. But the owner of the store building, a family based in Sisters, has put the property up for lease, with an ad stating that it is a "former Bi-Mart" location. As of early this week, the store was still open.

The commercial broker handling the leasing of the property off Coburg Road is Eugene-based Evans Elder Brown & Seubert. Broker Stephanie Seubert says there has been some interest in the building, but noted the agency has had the listing only a short time. The listing went live in the last several weeks.

"There has been demand for large retail spaces," Seubert adds.

The 30-year-old building has 32,000 square feet of space. It sits in the same plaza as a Market of Choice grocery store. The entire plaza is owned by the Sisters-based Murray family.

Officials for Bi-Mart didn't reply to an email and phone message from *Eugene Weekly* asking for confirmation or denial of the closure. Staff at the store said they were uncertain about Bi-Mart's plans. A representative for the Murray family did not return a call.

CLOSURES A RARITY

Bi-Mart is a local retailing mainstay, with 11 stores in Lane County. It has about 75 stores all told in the Northwest. It's unusual for the employee-owned chain to close stores. The last time appears to have been in January 2024, when it shut what it called an "under-performing" store in Portland, according to news reports.

Coburg Road is considered a desirable retail corridor, but even there it can take time to fill empty spots. The bankrupt Bed Bath & Beyond chain shut its store at the Oakway Center on Coburg Road

in July 2023, but not until January 2025 did a new tenant — recreation supplier REI — sign a deal to move in there.

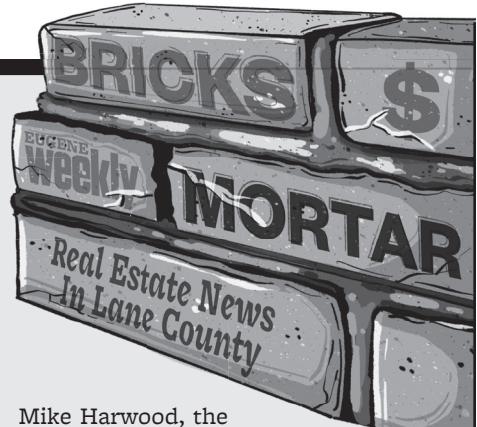
UO, DEVELOPER SIGN CONTRACT

On an unrelated front, the University of Oregon and a Portland firm have finally signed a contract for development of the UO-owned property anchored by the historic Romania car dealership on Franklin Boulevard in Eugene.

But don't expect to see construction anytime soon.

The contract gives the developer, called Project^, two and a half years to conduct "due diligence," which includes environmental testing, evaluating how to renovate the former dealership building and other planning for the four-acre site. The contract doesn't contain a timeline for Project^ to start construction of the complex, which is tentatively set to include apartments or condominiums, retail space, a hotel and parking garages, totaling more than 500,000 square feet.

The company will use the due diligence period to create a timeline, says



Mike Harwood, the UO's architect and an associate vice president. "We expect a schedule from the developer soon, but I don't have a commitment as to when that will be. We will have a chance to review it and comment on it. As part of that process, we will identify and solidify the key dates moving forward," Harwood tells *EW* in an email.

Thomas Cody, Project^'s president, didn't reply to an email from *EW*.

PROFIT SHARING

Under the 48-page contract, which the sides signed in May, Project^ is leasing the site for 55 years, with two optional 10-year extensions. If in the due diligence period Project^ decides the development is not feasible financially or otherwise, it can withdraw. The contract gives the UO "approval rights" over the "material elements of the schematic, design and construction drawings," plus over construction schedules. Once Project^ fully develops the site, the company will pay the UO rent of \$588,000 a year, with a 2.5 percent increase per year, according to the contract. Also, the UO will receive profit sharing if the complex hits certain profit milestones, according to the contract. The UO may let the proposed hotel use UO trademarks and advertise itself as a "flagship hotel" of the UO, the contract says.

The UO has never before done such an elaborate collaboration with a private-sector developer. Project^ and the UO began negotiating in 2019.

Eve Weston contributed to this article. Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard between 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.

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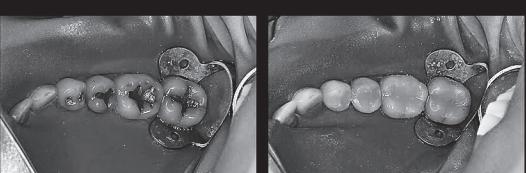
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ACTIVIST ALERT

PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

'Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.'

— Rep. John Lewis on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, March 1, 2020

Upcoming Rallies, Marches, Trainings and Protests

>> Kick Off: Good Trouble Fundraiser for the NAACP and book drive to collect books by Black and other authors of color to create a Good Trouble Library for school age kids within the Clear Lake Community Center, 11 am, Thursday, July 17, Clear Lake Community Center (former elementary school), 4646 Barger Drive. Community event (not a protest), no chanting or signs.

>> Good Trouble Lives on, pocket protest by 50501, "Come honor John Lewis's legacy." 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Thursday, July 17, Harlow Road bridge I-5 overpass, Springfield.

>> Benefit dance party for the Oregon Community Asylum Network by DJ SPOC-3PO "because we are a nation of immigrants!" 9 pm, Friday, July 18, Cowfish Cafe and Lounge, 62 West Broadway.

Ongoing

>> Resist! Persist! Repeat! Weekly Protest, 10 am to 11 am, Mondays, corners of 29th and Willamette Street.

>> Protest U.S.-supported genocide in Palestine, 4:30 pm to 6 pm, Mondays, oppose U.S. aid to Israel, 405 East 8th Avenue at Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse.

>> Weekly vigils against the genocide in Gaza, 5 pm, Wednesdays, Planet Versus Pentagon, old federal building, corner of 7th & Pearl.

>> Stop the Cuts, noon Fridays, Eugene Veterans Clinic, 3355 Chad Drive.

>> Weekly protest by Cottage Grove Friends of Democracy, 5 pm to 6 pm, Fridays, Coast Fork Farm Stand on the corner of Main and Hwy 99. Affiliated with Indivisible and Rural Organizing Project.

>> Stand in solidarity with Food Not Bombs feeding the community, 3:30 pm Fridays, Food Not Bombs, Downtown Park Blocks, 8th and Oak, Instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene.

>> Protest Trump's attacks on immigrants, noon to 5 pm Saturdays, in front of the Creswell AM/PM on Oregon Avenue, resources available to teach people how to disrupt ICE raids in their area.

>> Signmaking at MECCA, 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday, help with signmaking 11 am to 1 pm Wednesdays. Paint up to four signs for a donation of \$5 to \$10. MECCA, 555 High Street.

>> Volunteer with 50501 — medics, de-escalators, etc., needed. Linktr.ee/50501eugene. Contribute to financing permits and other items for local 50501 protests by searching Eugene 50501 on GoFundMe.

Email Editor@EugeneWeekly.com with "Activist Alert" in the subject line to add protests to this listing, and subscribe to the Activist Alert newsletter at EugeneWeekly.com/newsletter to get this information in your inbox on Wednesdays!

NEWS

FAIR FOR ALL

ARTIST MARCY MIDDLETON,
WHO IS OF NAVAJO DESCENT

Photo by Eve Weston



Members of the Native American community have brought concerns to the Oregon Country Fair, and the Fair is working to address them

BY RUBY DUNCAN AND EVE WESTON

In years past, the Oregon Country Fair has dealt with allegations of cultural appropriation from Native American community members. The Ritz Sauna, an independent business operating at OCF, has borne some of the brunt of the criticism, from the "story pole" controversy to concerns Native American-appearing art painted on its walls was not painted by Indigenous artists.

In 2017, Fair organizers pulled the plug on the controversial totem pole known as the story pole, from the outside of the Ritz sauna and showers space. The pole was created by a non-Native artist and its presence sparked outcry from the Native community.

Since then, Native American fairgoers have said that OCF is improving its inclusion and incorporation of Native artists and spaces.

Fair is on native Kalapuya land, and the OCF website says, "We acknowledge that we are on occupied lands, and express our respect for Kalapuya and all Tribal Nations of Oregon, and the important contributions they continue to make to their communities, including to the stewardship of this watershed."

When asked about conflicts regarding Native inclusivity, OCF Marketing Manager Vanessa Roy declined comment. However, Roy said that Fair "provides a very welcoming and safe space," and "We accept everybody for who they are."

In 2024, OCF introduced its Native Arts and Crafts Market in an effort to increase inclusion and representation of Native peoples at the Fair. NACM includes seven different booths with varying styles of art, including beadwork, paintings and wood work.

"They kind of went out of the way to help us do whatever we needed," says Leo White Horse, a Lakota artist who sold his paintings and other artwork at the Fair for his third year.

Some of the vendors in this section have been selling at the Fair for years, but now, they say they are pleased to have an area where they can turn to other Native people. Arusha Dittmer, a mixed media

artist who sells her work at Fair, says, "I'm super happy with it, and you know, I'm just excited to see just how it expands as it gets more popular."

Artist Marcy Middleton was central to the creation of the NACM, making it known to Fair organizers that such an area was needed. Middleton says the comments and stereotypes from non-Native people that Native artists were experiencing at Fair led to a need for support from one another. "When we're together, we support each other. It's a feeling of, 'OK, we have each other's backs,'" Middleton says.

While many artists now feel Fair has done a great job in evolving and becoming a welcoming space for everyone, Middleton explains past claims of inclusivity at Fair have often been intertwined with privilege. She says that the OCF's idea of inclusivity may not take into account everyone's individual experiences.

"People think it's the Fair that's doing this [Native inclusion]," Middleton says, "but we've always been here and we know how to make opportunities for ourselves."

According to the Ritz, a Native Tlingit artist was commissioned to contribute his artwork in an effort to address the concerns over cultural appropriation.

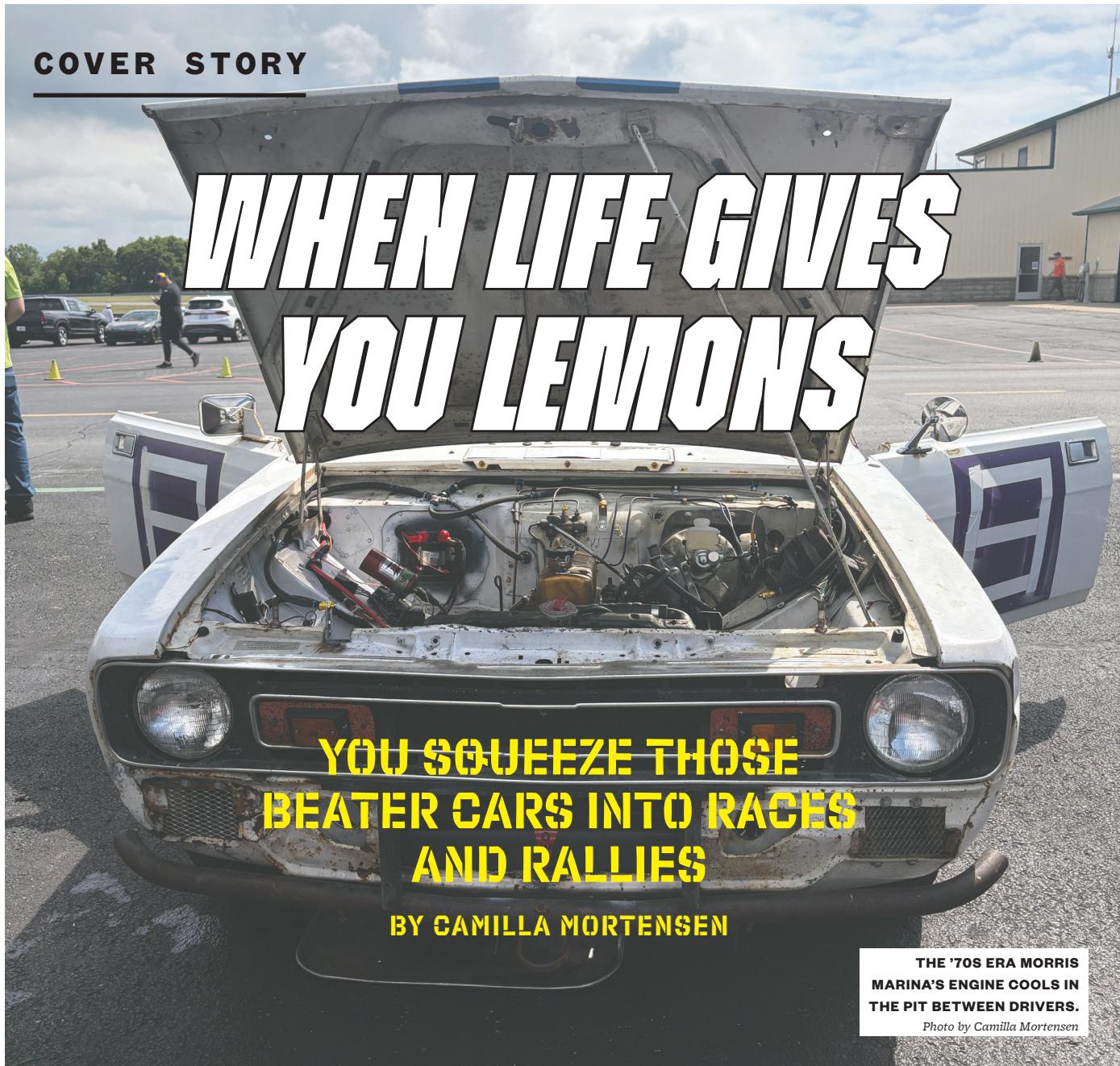
"For decades we have been heavily inspired by both flamingoes and the Northwest Coast Native traditions of storytelling, form, line and style," the Ritz says in a statement to EW. "Since 2017, new installations of Northwest Coast style have been designed and created by Native-American artist Patrick Price (aka 'Teak'), born and raised in southeastern Alaska and current Eugene resident. Eugene Weekly reached out to Price but did not receive a response in time for publication."

Native American artist Lin Long says, "The Ritz has gone out of their way to hear any complaints and they've taken some of the offensive stuff down right away."

In its statement, the Ritz writes, "For 2025, Teak created two new pieces inside the Ritz, one depicting spawning Coho salmon and the other representing a beaver. We also have several other new art installations this year in non-Native art styles."

Eugene Weekly reporters sought to confirm in-person at Fair if all the Native-style artwork inside the Ritz is attributed to Native artists, as some members of the Native American community had expressed concerns. However, the reporters were prohibited from entering the Ritz.

Mike Meyer, one of the volunteers for OCF who accompanies media, said reporters could not enter the Ritz because "it's just not OK to probe into this area," and that "we have to guard the sanctity of the Ritz." On July 5, a man was arrested at the Fair for allegedly filming people showering and changing in the Ritz, according to *The Oregonian*.



clutched the steering wheel — my hands dutifully at 10 and 2 o'clock — and stared through the bug-splattered windshield at the race track in front of me. The engine purred along, and I smelled rubber on the road, oil and a whiff of a hot transmission. The whine of engines sounded like the Indy 500 around me, but I'm pretty sure I barely went 40 mph.

"Drive faster, Camilla!" I dimly heard the race team captain say into my radio headset over the sounds of the track. "You drive on the freeway, don't you?"

How did I get here, at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Illinois, driving around a 2.1-mile track in a car without power steering? I'm in a 1973 Morris Marina, considered one of the worst cars ever made, and there's a piano strapped to the roof.

All I needed to do was not crash, not overheat the car and not do anything stupid — like catch fire the way a red 1993 Honda Civic painted with snowflakes did the day before.

I was part of a team of motley racing rookies seeking a prize — or simply to finish — in an endurance race called the "24 Hours of Lemons."

Not the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the prestigious endurance car race in France that makes up the "Triple Crown of Motorsport," together with the Monaco Grand Prix and Indianapolis 500.

The 24 Hours of Lemons is a quirky race for racers whose cars — including improvements — are worth \$500 or less, but are dedicated to their sport. Fellow

racers included the 1997 Subaru Impreza of team "S.H.I.T.box" brought to you by DFM" and the 1993 Honda Civic of "Heel and Toe Failures."

24 Hours of Lemons started at tracks in California in 2006 and has expanded ever since. There are two dozen races scheduled for this year alone, including one in August in Kent, Washington. And four more Lemons Rally road events are on the agenda this year — including one in Oregon. Race entries range from about 45 to 145 cars, depending on the region. Rallies are usually smaller with about 25 cars per event or as many as 70.

Lemons also hosts people "deliberately making performance cars worse as either some kind of automotive trolling or just answering the eternal question of 'What if we did this dumb thing?'" according to race organizer Eric Rood.

Rood is the "everything bagel" (his actual job title because he does a little of everything) of 24 Hours of Lemons. He says the goal is for drivers to go home with nothing more than scraped knuckles, so there is a "pretty rigid standard of safety." That includes a rollcage in the car, a five-point safety harness, fire-retardant driver gear, a certified helmet with a neck restraint and more.

The safety modifications are not included in the \$500 limit. So when you factor in the rollcage and fire suppression equipment, it probably costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 to get a race car going. (Duly noted, a Formula 1 car can cost more than \$15 million and a Next Gen NASCAR is at

least \$225,000.)

As the 24 Hours of Lemons puts it, "Racing's not just for rich idiots. Racing's for all idiots. (This includes you.)" And as it turns out, me.

Somehow the Morris Marina manages to be both safe and dubious. There's the system for extinguishing fires, but also what appears to be a lot of pool noodles for padding, and I'm somewhat concerned that I might push the button that detaches the steering wheel.

The team I'm on, like other folks I see at the race, is a mix of young and old. It's gear heads who can talk engines for days as well as folks who have a sense of humor, a slight yen for speed and who enjoy hanging out in lawn chairs in between laps.

BOTTOM GEAR

Bottom Gear is the brainchild of JR Schrage and Jeff Stobbs, longtime friends living in the Midwest who share a sense of fun and a debatable sense of humor.

Schrage tells me, "I heard about it when it first started, almost 20 years ago now, and I was like, 'Oh, terrible cars doing things on race tracks. Sounds like fun.'"

The team name is a play on the British TV show *Top Gear*, an automotive-themed show with comedic elements. The show's hosts have held up the Morris Marina, produced in England in the 1970s, as the epitome of a bad car.

Schrage says of *Top Gear* and the Marina, "As far as they were concerned, it was the beginning of the downfall of the British auto industry, because it is

the most scrapped car in British history. They made 800,000 to a million of them, and there are less than 1,000 of them still in existence."

He adds, "So the one I have, the fact that it's in the U.S. means it is probably the only one people are gonna see in person in their lifetimes. OK, it's a very rare car — unintentionally."

There's something else to know about Lemons. It's not just about having a really bad car, it's also about having a really bad car with a theme and decor. As I stood on the viewing platform on the track that first day, I saw a flying pig-themed car, a propeller-beanie-themed car — with both car and drivers donning a brightly colored propeller — some sort of fish thing that I'm told was a Pokéman, a McDonald's Grimace theme, complete with a mascot in a purple Grimace costume and more.

The *Top Gear* hosts had a running gag of smashing Marinas by dropping pianos on them. The Morris Marina I drove had a piano strapped to the roof — that actually worked. Ludwig, the 9-year-old son of my old friend Linda Fraunhofer, Schrage's sister, played the piano before and after the race, standing on the back of the car and dressed like a character from *Top Gear*.

Stobbs and Schrage started off in Lemons road rallies rather than races. He and Stobbs — and a Cadillac limo they then drove — discovered "the Lemons Rally is kind of like a scavenger hunt that goes throughout the country, and we come up with goofy checkpoints and have people do goofy things."

Stobbs is now a rally master and is currently organizing the "Cascades of Failure," which runs August 8 to 10 from Tacoma to Madras to Astoria and back to Tacoma.

He says, "You score points for how bad your car is, how many of the checkpoints you reach and more or less how much of a good time you have. There are winners on points, but most people are just there to have a good time, which is also true of the racing."

THE RACE IS ON

The name of the game in a Lemons race is laps. The race — Doing Time in Joliet 2025 — doesn't actually go 24 hours straight. It ran from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, and again on Sunday from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

The trick is to keep the crappy car running, so you drive laps, go back to the "pit" (aka the spot in the parking lot your team is set up in) for maintenance and a driver change, then head back out. Rookies like the folks of Bottom Gear, including me, tend to drive about a 30-minute shift.

Rood explains that there are actually three racing classes, or levels, running at the same time. He says the classes are set by what he calls the "descending likelihood of, uh, capability."

The classes are A, B and C, which Rood says were originally based on *Prayer of Winning*, *Prayer of Finishing* and *No Prayer of Finishing*. Judges placing cars for awards in the bottom class, he says, are affected by the car's theme and "how terrible their car is." (Notably, the prize money in the top class is \$400. For cars racing in the *No Prayer of Finishing* class, it's \$600.)

He says one team, Bad Decisions Racing, has had a 1990s Chevrolet Camaro for a

COVER STORY

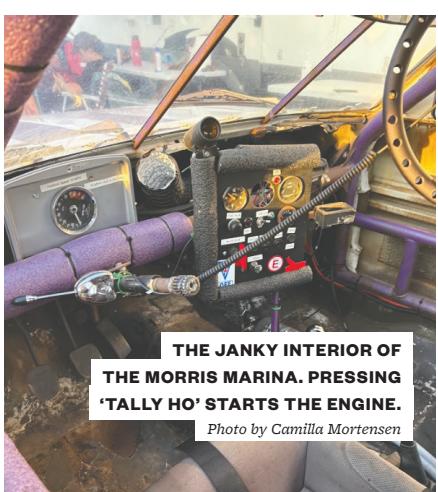


NO. 759, 'IN SEARCH OF EDSLANCCE,' FUELS UP IN THE HOT PIT.
Photo by Camilla Mortensen



CAMILLA MORTENSEN PULLS INTO THE PIT AFTER HER LAPS IN THE 24 HOURS OF LEMONS RACE.

Photo by Linda Fraunhofer



THE JANKY INTERIOR OF THE MORRIS MARINA. PRESSING 'TALLY HO' STARTS THE ENGINE.

Photo by Camilla Mortensen

few years and put a series of very slow engines in it. At Joliet, the team plunked in a "1960s Soviet engine that they found for sale in a dusty warehouse in Chicago." Bad Decisions won the Judges' Choice award.

The pre-race "BS inspection" also tries to suss out people who spend far more than \$500 to soup up their cars. Organizers encourage racers to show how they arrive at their \$500 limit "through spreadsheets, budgets, receipts, pictures of money changing hands because you can also sell parts off the car to offset the limit," Rood says.

"At the end of the day," Rood adds, "the purpose is to keep people from showing up with a car that doesn't fit the point of the series and having them punch down at people who maybe just learned how to drive stick 10 minutes before they went on the track."

Some of our team resembled that remark.

There were somewhere between nine and 13 of us making up Bottom Gear — depending on if you count the folks who didn't wind up driving and the judge who jumped in for a couple laps. Schrage is the guy who keeps the terrible car going; Stobbs is team captain.

With the help of Fraunhofer, they pulled together the rookies for the race in Joliet,

including grandma and grandpa Schrage (who had some sort of demolition derby history in his background), Linda's German husband Wolfgang, Stobbs' 19-year-old son Abel Stobbs, and several Schrage cousins from Iowa — who as it turns out, were enthusiastic but didn't really drive stick — which is where I came in.

I had come to Chicago for work, to visit Fraunhofer and to watch the family's day at the races. I instead let slip that my last car was a stick shift Fiat — at least one of which I saw racing that July weekend — and next thing I knew, I was on the roster.

Luckily, I fit the gear of one of the non-stick-shift-oriented drivers that had been rented for the occasion. I pulled the smudged, slightly worn blue fireproof suit over shorts and cooling shirt. Tubes from the shirt came out through the bottom of the zipper to connect to a cooler of ice water that sat in the car with me. Fire-resistant gloves, socks and shoes, plus a heavy helmet, neck protection and ear phones completed the get up.

I then had to climb in through the window, *Dukes of Hazzard* style, made easier by the detachable steering wheel. The dashboard was bare bones, but I was soon oriented to the temperature gauge (not overheating the Morris Marina was a key to success), the fire suppression system and the button marked "Tally Ho!" that started the engine.

I was the first of our team to drive on Sunday, but I started after the more competent drivers to avoid overheating the Marina while waiting to get onto the track.

I was disconcerted to get in the car in a full race suit and get thoroughly strapped in, and realize I was limited by the helmet and safety gear on how much I could turn my head or move at all. I could barely see the gear shift — just as well since I needed my eyes on the track.

I was also disconcerted to realize that I had volunteered to drive onto the racetrack

in a car I had only driven once around the block. I puttered through the "paddock" as the parking and pit stop area is called, and down through the hot pit where cars stopped to fuel up.

I am notorious for being a slow driver. I was pulled over on the freeway once, and my boyfriend sitting next to me asked, "Are you getting nailed for driving too slow?" But Fraunhofer pointed out to me that the fastest laps in a Morris Marina are not always the best laps, because the car is old, rickety and there's that tendency to get overheated.

I did not come close to overheating, but the sounds of cars whizzing by, tires screeching and the feel of being in an actual car race was worth my driving through the hot pit, pulling up for the safety check and exploding onto the track.

By exploding, I mean slowly shifting from first to second to third and then trying to stay out of everyone's way. Fraunhofer, who had driven the day before, advised me "be predictable" so as not to get in the way of the faster cars.

The headset I wore was only one-way — they could talk to me but I couldn't respond. I could, however, stick my arm out the open window to gesture, which seemed like a poor idea in a race car. I finally sped up a little — mostly because I was mildly convinced I was going to get clipped by one of the cars whizzing around me on the corners. I stayed to the right, while more experienced drivers maneuvered to pass and keep the best line through the curves.

The race communicates to drivers with flags posted along the course at numbered stations along the way — black means get off the track, red means stop and so on. I was so convinced I was going to screw up that I almost mistook the station 8 sign for a flag saying that me, in the little white car with the purple No. 8, needed to get off the track.

As for getting off the track, you had to exit left after a curve, which meant getting across the 40-foot-wide track after I had doggedly stuck to the right the entire time. "OK, Camilla, you can pull out after this lap" I heard in my headphones. Easier said than done as what seemed like 15 cars whizzed by.

Stobbs could see I was getting cut off. "OK," he said into the headset, "go another lap."

Feeling emboldened — and almost done — I am sure I hit at least 40 mph that

last lap. I doggedly stuck my arm out the window to indicate I was heading left, and slowly cruised into the hot pit and then back to our site. At that point, I was grinning wildly despite a helmet that was supposed to fit tight enough to make chewing gum uncomfortable.

The top team, "Lemonaid," driving in a 2000 BMW 323, clocked 439 laps. Of the 87 cars signed up to race that weekend. Bottom Gear finished in 67th, making it around the track 188 times.

Despite — OK, maybe because of — the crappy car, the piano, the motley crew, team Bottom Gear didn't just finish, we won an award. And team Bottom Gear is also, somehow, the top in the Midwest regional standings.

In the end, Abel Stobbs was our fastest driver, with a top lap speed of 2 minutes 23 seconds, reflecting the team's overall top speed of about 52 mph. Abel — who had also suggested I wear cotton under my suit because "it doesn't melt if you catch fire" — told me he'd never driven a stick faster than second gear before the race.

Abel also got clipped by another racer. "If I hadn't been spooked by another car diving for the inside line on the turn, I would've seen the guy and braked," he says.

We won what Jeff Stobbs tells me is the top award — the Index of Effluency, which 24 Hours of Lemons says is "determined by a super-secret equation including vehicle age, general hooptiness, reliability of country of origin, unlikelihood of success and the organizers' whim."

"You need to realize," he tells the team, "rookie teams don't win stuff." He also tells us we were the slowest team to win that award at the Joliet track.

"Team Ho Ho Ho," whose car caught fire again on Sunday, won the "I Got Screwed" award.

Stobbs and Schrage have plans for team Bottom Gear. They've got a lead on a Jaguar XJ6 already fitted with a rollcage. An XJ6 is still a slow car, but "would give us the ability to feel like we aren't in an asteroid field being assaulted by hyper sonic missiles," Stobbs says.

Hell, we might even drive 55. Squeeze me in.

The 24 Hours of Lemons is coming to the Northwest next month. The race, Smells Like AMC Spirit 2025, is at Pacific Raceways in Kent, Washington, August 30 and 31. Up for a rally? The next Pacific Northwest Lemons Rally, Cascades of Failure Rally 2025, is August 8 through 10. Enter your lemon by August 1. Want to know more? Go to 24hoursoflemons.com.

what's happening

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JULY 18-19

She captivated readers of *The Atlantic* in 1920 with the journal of her early life. Opal Whiteley, a child from the logging town of Walden, outside of Cottage Grove, claimed to be the orphaned daughter of Henri d'Orleans, a Bourbon prince and naturalist. At five years old, she wrote that she was mysteriously abandoned and then exchanged for a child of the Whiteleys. At the age of six and seven, she wrote that she could talk to animals and plants. Those six excerpts from *The Atlantic* became the basis of her 1920 memoir *Opal: The Journal of an Understanding Heart*, a best seller in 1920. The journal also fascinated Elizabeth Peterson and Lance Troxel, a husband-wife team who have put together **Opal Reads Opal** July 18 and 19 at the Opal Center for Arts & Education in Cottage Grove. Peterson, the writer and director, notes that the reading will encompass 30 sections of Whiteley's journal, some full chapters and other smaller passages. "I tried to capture the spirit of the diary," she says. Most of all, Peterson and Troxel want to display the writing of someone so young. "It's very polished," Peterson says. "It's a sophisticated piece of literature." *Opal Reads Opal* is a multi-media performance featuring seven readers as well as slides and biographical information. "It's a way for people to engage in the text, which is extraordinary," Peterson explains. "It felt important for us. We hope it will be an annual thing." — Dan Buckwalter



Photo courtesy Opal Center for Arts & Education

Opal Reads Opal is 7:30 pm Friday, July 18, and Saturday, July 19, at the Opal Center for Arts & Education, 513 East Main Street, Cottage Grove. \$10 suggested donation. The seven readers are Laurel Merz, Nikki Pagnano, Serene Zamora, Marc Siegel, Moura Stewart, Phil Dempsey and Elizabeth Peterson.

July 17

THURSDAY

Film

Shaun of the Dead (2004), 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Food/Drink

Pfriem Tap Takeover & Tasting, 5pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Thursday Tasting Series, 6-8pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club Meeting, noon, Countryside Pizza & Grill, 645 River Rd.

Peace Vigil, 5:30-5:45pm, Peace Pole at Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd.

Oregon Culture Night, 6-7:30pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Petersen Barn Park, 3825 Royal Ave.

Sensory Playtime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Hablemos Español: Spanish Conversation, 4pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Obsessed: The Journey of a Plant Collector, 7-9pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Markets

Thursday Night Markets, 5-9pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Nightlife

Trivia w/ Brett, 6:30-8:30pm, Viking Brewing West, 520 Commercial St. ste. F.

Bingo, 7pm, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Bingo w/ Jen Jay, 7-9pm, Wetland Brew Pub, 922 Garfield St.

Pride Vending Pinball Tournament, 7pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Karaoke, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Karaoke, 8:30pm-12:30am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Downtown Mural Bike Tour, 10am-noon, Campbell Community Ctr., 155 High St. \$5-6.

Thrifty Thursday Tee Times, 5pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St. \$50.

Social Dance

Latin Dancing, 7-10pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5.

Spiritual

Higher Self Meditation, 5-5:30pm, Online. Visit SpiritualArts.org for more information.

Refuge Recovery, 5:30-7pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

July 18

FRIDAY

Drag

Men at Werk's Boy-becue, 8pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15.

Food/Drink

Trippy Friday, 3pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave.

Gatherings

Eugene Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome & Hypermobility Support Group, 4-6pm, email EugeneWildStripes@zohomail.com for location.

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LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Kids/Family

Kids Craft: String Art & Rock Painting, 9am-3pm, Blackthorn Academy of Irish Dance, 420 W. 12th Ave. \$60.

Family Fun in the Sun: Native Innovation, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE-\$6.

Instrument Petting Zoo, 10am & 2pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave.

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Listen & Craft: Recycled Art, 2:30pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Musical Monster Friends, 6-7pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd.

Lectures/Classes

Crafternoon w/ MECCA, 1-4pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10.

Adults: Create Zombirds, 2:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Get Spiralized & Satisfied w/ Yaakov Levine, FNTP, 6-7pm, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Road.

Nightlife

Trivia, 7pm, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Karaoke w/ DJ Saturn, 8pm, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Kinky Bingo, 8-11pm, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St. \$10.

Karaoke, 9pm-1am, Squachos, 471 S. A St.

Karaoke, 9pm-1am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Fun Friday Goat Yoga, 6-7pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$25.

Social Dance

Freek! Dance Party w/ DJ SPOC-3PO, 8:30pm-2:15am, Cowfish Dance Club, 62 W. Broadway.

Church of '80s, 9pm-2am, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

Salsa & Bachata Social Dancing & Drop-in Class, 9pm-12:15am, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$8.

Gatherings

Death Cafe, 2-3:30pm, Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine, 2537 Game Farm Rd., Spfd.

Death Cafe, 4:30-6pm, Ctr. For Spiritual Living, 390 Vernal St.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Enchanted Tea, 7-10pm, Capricorn Manor, 105 W. A Ave., Drain.

Theater

A Connecticut Yankee, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$29-45.

Opal Reads Opal, 7:30pm, Opal Ctr. for Arts & Education, 513 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. \$10.

Rare Candy: Splash, 8-10pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$10-15.

July 19

SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Summer Mushroom House, 3-5pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Paint & Sip: Sea & Dunes, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Drag

Drag Bingo, 5pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St.

Farmers Markets

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Lane County Farmers Market, 8th Ave & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Community Grower's Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market, 10am-2pm, Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market, 88267 Territorial Rd., Veneta.

Festival

Adkins Blueberry Farm Blues & Brews Festival, 10am-6pm, Adkins Blueberry Farm, 85995 Gossler Rd.

Graand Kinetic Challenge 2025, 10am-4pm, Crystal Lake Park, 100 SE Fischer Ln., Corvallis.

Oregon Asian Celebration, 10am-9pm, Alton Baker Park, 200 Day Island Rd.

Film

Saturday Morning Cartoons, 10am-2pm, Caffe Pacori, 255 Wallis St.

Food/Drink

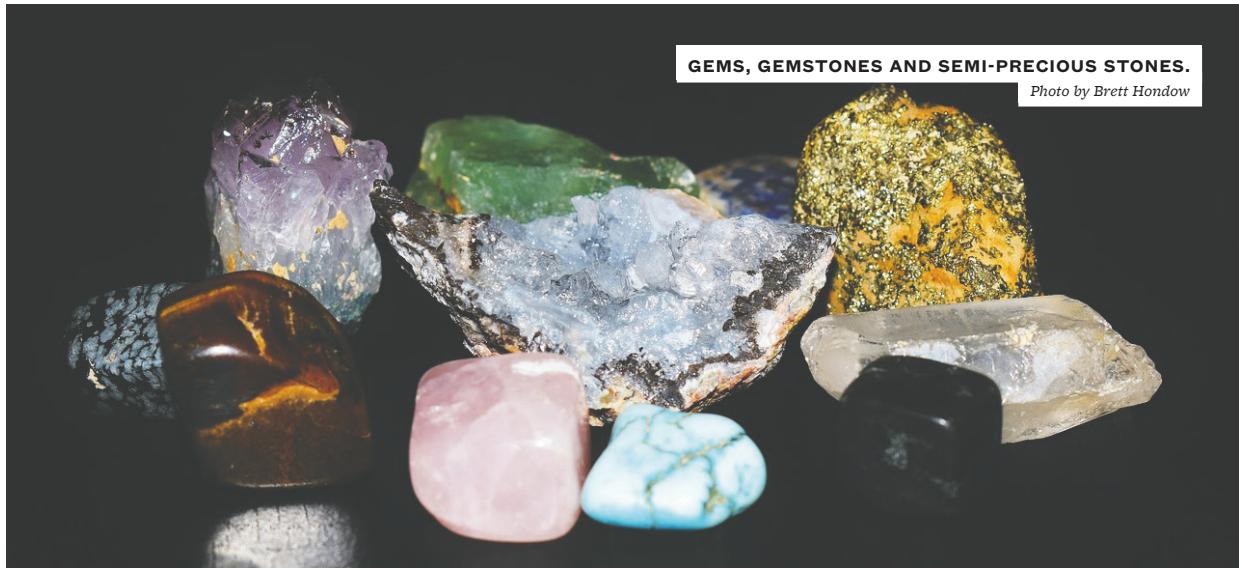
The Bier Stein 20th Anniversary Party, noon, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Death Cafe, 2-3:30pm, Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine, 2537 Game Farm Rd., Spfd.

Death Cafe, 4:30-6pm, Ctr. For Spiritual Living, 390 Vernal St.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Enchanted Tea, 7-10pm, Capricorn Manor, 105 W. A Ave., Drain.



GEMS, GEMSTONES AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES.

Photo by Brett Hondonow

JULY 20

Join Five Elements Gem and Mineral as they host the annual **Oregon Geo Fest** to celebrate Earth's historical beauty and ageless mysteries. For a one-day family fun event on Sunday, July 20, visitors will engage with our planet's oldest geofossils. Five Elements Gem and Mineral Owner Robert Wells says he will provide an open space of learning and education about our beloved planet. "I encourage exploring Earth's deep mysteries. I like to teach people. Education is built into my business," he adds. Oregon Geo Fest is an open space for the community to build a deeper connection with the planet. With free admission for all ages, the event at Broadway Center will have live music, food carts, prize drawings and children's activities like panning for gold and checking out the Springfield Thunder Egg Rock Club. An assortment of minerals, crystals, gems and fossils from around the world will be available at exhibition booths. Whether you are visiting to expand your illustrious mineral collection or looking to gain new knowledge on our planet and share time with family and friends, Oregon Geo Fest has a place for all. — *Corin Antonio*

Oregon Geo Fest is 11 am to 5 pm, July 20, at Broadway Center, 2100 West Broadway. The event is free and open to all ages.

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Kids/Family

Family Fun in the Sun: Native Innovation, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE-\$6.

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Teddy Bear Picnic, 11am, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

LEGO, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Lectures/Classes

Hands On History, 11am-1pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Markets

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

S.A.R.A.'s Parking Lot Sale, 10am-5pm, S.A.R.A.'s Treasures, 871 River Rd.

Art House Yard Sale, noon-6pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave.

Nightlife

Music Bingo, 6-10pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Hwy. 99 S.

All Star Karaoke, 9pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Outdoor Fitness, 9-11am, Dorris Ranch, 205 Dorris St. Springfield.

Guided Walking Tour of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 1-2:30pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, E. 25th Ave. & University St.

SCM Yoga, 2-4pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave. FREE-\$10.

Original Goat Yoga Experience, 4-5:30pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd, Monroe. \$30.

Dark Sky Star Party, 9pm-midnight, Dexter State Recreation Site, Dexter State Recreation Site, Dexter.

Spectator Sports

Legends of Monster Truck Tour, noon-3:30pm, Horse Ctr., 90751 Prairie Rd. \$10-70.

Spiritual

Let's Just Sit Together, 10:30am-noon, Buddha Eye Temple, 2190 Garfield St. FREE-\$10.

Sponsored

Oregon Asian Celebration, 10am-9pm, Alton Baker Park, 200 Day Island Rd.

Theater

A Connecticut Yankee, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$29-45.

Opal Reads Opal, 7:30pm, Opal Ctr. for Arts & Education, 513 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. \$10.

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July 20

SUNDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip w/ Sierra, noon, PublicHouse, 418 A St. Springfield. \$30.

Paint & Sip: Heceta Head Lighthouse, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Benefits

Lucky Paws Rescue Dog Adoption Event, 1-4pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Bingo Benefiting Charity: Make a Wish, 3-5pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. \$2-5.

Comedy

Hand Shoes & Horse Grenades, 7:30pm, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St.

Film

Star Wars: A New Hope (1977), 6-8pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave, Corvallis. \$8-10.

Gatherings

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center., 390 Vernal St.

Kids/Family

Apollo Day, 10am-5pm, Eugene Science Ctr., 2300 Leo Harris Pkwy. FREE-\$7.50.

Make Recycled Paper, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Bingo, 5:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Lectures/Classes

Make it! Workshop: Terrariums, 11am-2pm, Bring Recycling, 4446 Franklin Blvd.

Plants & Planets w/ Logan Keister, noon-2pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5.

Benefits

Pints for a Burrito Brigade, 5:30-8pm, Oakshire Commons, 416 Main St., Spfd.

Bingo for Lane County Diaper Bank, 6:30pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

July 21

MONDAY

Art/Craft

Kids' Cartoonists Club, 2-3pm, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave ste. 224.

Benefits

Whiteaker Community Market, 10am-3pm, Scobert Park, 4th Ave. & Blair Blvd.

Oregon Geo Fest, 11am-5pm, Broadway Ctr., 2100 W. Broadway.



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Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

LGBTQIA+ Support Group, 5:30-7pm, Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd.

Death Cafe, 6:30-8pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Literary Arts

Adventures in Writing Summer Camp, 10:30am-2pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St., ste. 100. \$259.

Nightlife

Cabbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Company, 263 Mill St. \$3.

Trivia w/ Geo, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Quality Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30-8:30pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Trivia, 7pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St.

Outdoors/Recreation

Beginner's Rock Climbing, 6-8pm, Crux Rock Climbing Gym, 401 W. 3rd Ave. \$17.

Yoga in the Park: Meditation & Vinyasa, 6-7pm, Washington Park, 2025 Washington St.

Spiritual

Higher Self Meditation, 9-9:30am, Online. Visit SpiritualArts.org for more information.

July 22

TUESDAY

Art/Craft

Kids' Creativity Cafe, 1-4pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd ave. \$10.

Body Positive Figure Drawing, 6-8pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10.

Figure Art Session, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., ste. C. \$8-60.

Farmers Markets

Tuesday Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Lane County Farmers Market, 8th Ave & Oak St.

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Coventry & Kaluza, 10am, Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave., Cottage Grove.

Kids: Clay Day, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Plant Prowl & Problem Solving in the Garden, 6:30-7:30pm, OSU Extension Service, Lane County, 996 Jefferson St.

Literary Arts

Book Group: Hollow Kingdom, 6pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Nightlife

Eugene Deadhead Trivia, 6pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$5.

Tacos & Trivia, 6-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Quality Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30-8:30pm, Oakshire Commons, 416 Main St., Spfd.

Bingo & Tacos, 7-9pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Bingo w/ Judy Jitsu, 7pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St.

Trivia Tuesday, 7pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

Trivia w/ Geo, 7-9pm, beer-garden, 777 W. 6th St.

Social Dance

Latin Dance Night w/ DJ Vito, 7-11pm, The Cowfish Dance Club, 62 W. Broadway. \$8.

Theater

seaMAN: A Nautical Revenge Comedy, 8pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$20-25.

MJ: The Musical, 7:30pm, The Hult, 1 Eugene Ctr. \$49.

July 23

WEDNESDAY

Art/Craft

Figure Art Session, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., Ste. C. \$8-60.

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JULY 20

If you're looking for a relaxing weekend activity, then the Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge has just the event. On Sunday, July 20, you can attend **Mindfulness Meditation with Cats**. Starting at 1 pm, there will be around 20 minutes to hang out with the 10 adoptable cats in the lounge. Then, meditation guide Beth Patterson will lead a meditation for around 20 to 30 minutes, and the event will conclude with more time for visiting the cats. The cats come from Twitchy Tails Rescue, a nonprofit cat rescue in Eugene. Anyone looking to attend can book their spot on the Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge website. The Cat Lounge invites people who are considering adopting cats, but also welcomes anyone who just wants to hang out. "It's a lot of fun just to hang out with 10 cats in a room. It's very clean and odor free," says Michelle Wyatt from the Cat Lounge. Wyatt says visitors from out of state have said this is the best cat lounge they have ever been to. After being open for almost a year and a half, the lounge has held different events to raise attention to the lounge and its cats. According to Wyatt, starting in August, the events will be an hour and a half. All of the events can be found on the Cat Lounge website. There is no yoga mat or equipment required. — *Ruby Duncan*

Mindfulness Meditation with Cats is 1 pm to 2 pm, Sunday, July 20, at Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge, 537 West Centennial Boulevard, Springfield. No yoga mat or equipment required. \$18. For more information visit EugeneSpringfieldCatLounge.com.

Film

Roger Waters This Is Not A Drill: Live from Prague (2025), 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$15.

Star Wars: A New Hope (1977), 7-9pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave, Corvallis. \$8-10.

Food/Drink

Picnic at the Pavilion, 11:30am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion & Plaza, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45 & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Nightlife

Trivia w/ Rob & Lorraine, 5-8:30pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave.

Davey's Dungeon & Dragons, 6pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St.

Guitaraoke, 6-9pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Hwy. 99 S.

Rainbow Game Night, 6-8pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE-\$5.

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5.

Bingo Wednesdays w/ Ty Connor, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Trivia, 7-9pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Karaoke Night, 8-11pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St.

Karaoke w/ KJ JudyJitsu, 8pm-midnight, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St.

Outdoors/Recreation

Habitat Restoration w/ UO Natural Areas Team, 9am-noon, Frohnmayr Bike Bridge.

Community Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Social Dance

Argentine Tango Dancing, 7-10pm, Veteran's Memorial Ballroom, 1626 Willamette., 2nd fl. \$7-10.

Teens

Teens: HOOTS. Mental Health Clinic, 11am-2pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Make Bristle Bots, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Theater

MJ: The Musical, 7:30pm, The Hult, 1 Eugene Ctr. \$49.

seaMAN: A Nautical Revenge Comedy, 8pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$15-25.

Tappin' Talent Search, 8-10pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

July 24

THURSDAY

Food/Drink

Beergarden's Annual Beach Bash, 11:30am-10pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Belgian Bier Fest, 11:30am-10pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Thursday Tasting Series, 6-8pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

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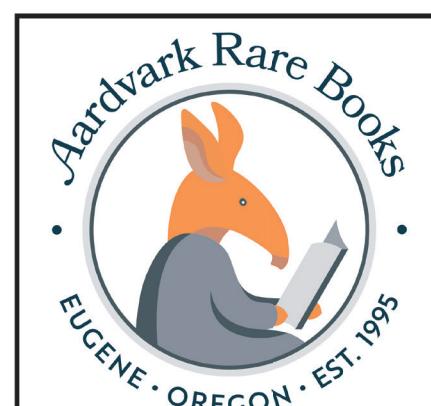
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Gatherings

Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club

Meeting, noon, Countryside

Pizza & Grill, 645 River Rd.

Oregon Culture Night

6-7:30pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave.

Peace Vigil, 5:30-5:45pm, Peace Pole at Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Petersen Barn Park, 3825 Royal Ave.

Sensory Playtime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

Kids' Comic Book Book Club, 2-3pm, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave., ste. 224.

Signing & Comics Workshop w/ Jonathan Hill, 2pm, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 99 W. Broadway ste. C.

"Black & Tan Fantasy" Reading & Signing, 6-8pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

History Book Club, 6-7:30pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Nightlife

Trivia w/ Brett, 6:30-8:30pm, Viking Brewing West, 520 Commercial St. ste. F.

Bingo, 7pm, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Bingo w/ Jen Jay, 7-9pm, Wetland Brew Pub, 922 Garfield St.

Team Trivia, 7-9pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Hwy. 99 S.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Karaoke, 8:30pm-12:30am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Karaoke w/ Crystal, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Thrifty Thursday Tee Times, 5pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St. \$50.

Social Dance

Latin Dancing, 7-10pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5.

Spiritual

Higher Self Meditation, 5-5:30pm, Online. Visit SpiritualArts.Org for more information.

Refuge Recovery, 5:30-7pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Tarot Practice Circle, 7-9pm, Seven Sisters Circle. \$4-9.

Theater

MJ: The Musical, 7:30pm, The Hult, 1 Eugene Ctr. \$49.

The Cowbare: An UDDERly Unhinged Bovine Variety Show, 8pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$20-25.



TOP ROW: DAVID LANDON, MARLA JOHNSON, EVE JAMES, KALI KARDAS, JEFF CREWS, ADAM LEONARD
BOTTOM ROW: CLAY KENT, ZEPHIE BOUDREAU, MARI KENNY, DALE LIGHT, MICHAEL RUCKER

Photo courtesy Kali Kardas/No Script Society

JULY 20

"Yes, and" is improv theater and comedy's animating principle. Your scene partner says you're in a dentist's office, another adds "[Yes, and] a dragon is in the corner." Rather than saying, "No, that's absurd," you must say "[Yes, and] it's a good thing I brought my sword." That's the challenge of it; that's the sport. On Sunday, June 20, Eugene improv troupe No Script Society presents **WNSS TV-Live Improv Comedy Meets Public Access Cable Show** at 255 Madison. In it, No Script Society will "Yes, and" their way through typical cable access fare: Weird talk shows, bizarre local news, inventors presenting their strange gizmos and more, all with topics and ideas offered by the audience. Think old *Wayne's World* skits or *Weird Al*'s movie *UHF* (1989). In the second half, No Script Society member and show producer Michael Rucker says the troupe will improvise a late-night cable access B-horror or sci-fi movie, with audience suggestions as their starting point. Rucker says No Script Society has been around in one form or another since shortly before the pandemic. Since then, the group, with about a dozen improvisers at each show, has become more active, performing at Very Little Theatre in south Eugene, with occasional shows at other venues. If you come to an improv show, Rucker says, expect it "to be weird. Turn off your brain and be open." To try it for yourself, Rucker says, attend a No Script Society Open Improv Jam at VLT. Rucker says newcomers shouldn't "feel any pressure" if they don't want to interact with the performers. He adds, however, that there are ample opportunities to offer input. "Come and try improv or just watch," Rucker adds. "Just keep an open mind. It can get kind of out there." — Will Kennedy

No Script Society's WNSS TV-Live Improv Comedy Meets Public Access Cable Show is 6 pm Sunday, July 20, at 255 Madison, 255 Madison Street. Admission is \$5, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. The next No Script Society Open Improv Jam is 1 pm, Saturday, July 26, at VLT, 2350 Hilyard Street. Free.

Add your event to **Eugene Weekly's What's Happening Calendar** for free at EugeneWeekly.com. Email Cal@EugeneWeekly.com with questions or call 541-484-0519.

Music Listings

THURSDAY JULY 17

BERGARDEN Meadow Rue (bluegrass) — 7pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Noche De Rumba w/ DJ Pachanga Mix — 9pm.

EMERALD PARK Inner Limits (funk) — 6:30pm.

FARMERS MARKET PAVILION Corona & Glausi Quintet (jazz) — 6pm.

ISLAND PARK Rock N' Rewind — 5:30pm. \$3

KESEY SQUARE Artistic Encounters w/ Meadow Rue (bluegrass) — noon.

LUCKY'S CLUB Funk Night Eugene — 9pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB 70s & 80s Dance Party — 7pm. \$9

MCKENZIE GENERAL STORE & OBSIDIAN GRILL John Shipe (singer-songwriter) — 6pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

PLAY EUGENE DJ Food Stamp — 8pm.

SPRINGFIELD EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — midnight.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY Steve Arriola & The Willin' (Latin) — 6pm.

THE HYBRID Beyond the Stars & DuffelBelle (American) — 7:30pm. \$15-18

WANDERING GOAT COFFEE COMPANY Dry Socket & All Beat Up & Cock Ring & Elephant Walk (metal) — 7pm. \$10-15

WOW HALL Matte Blvck (darkwave) — 8pm. \$20-25

FRIDAY JULY 18

16 TONS CAFE Brohemia After Dark (jazz) — 6pm. \$20

ART HOUSE Stillhouse Junkies (roots) — 8pm. \$20

COINER PARK Forest Mountain Lion (folk rock) — 2:30pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Geofrey Louis Koch (singer-songwriter) — 7pm.

EUGENE SCIENCE CENTER Friday Laser Shows — 6pm. \$7.50

GRATITUDE BREWING The Ky Burt Band (Appalachian string music) — 7:30pm.

KESEY SQUARE Kantor, Mays, Rempel Trio (jazz) — noon.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Daddy Rabbit (50's rock) — 7pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

PLAY EUGENE Soul Sessions — 8pm.

PUBLICHOUSE Melissa Ruth & The Likely Stories (country) — 7:30pm.

SARVER WINERY Eel Sallad (blues) — 5:30pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Jeanne Gregg (blues) — 6pm.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY The Henry Cooper Trio (swampytonk) — 6pm.

THE EMBERS The Survivors (classic rock) — 8pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Nick Biello "New America" Quintet — 7:30pm. \$25

VIKING BREWING WEST Just Clark (country) — 5pm.

WOW HALL Frankie & The Witch Fingers (psych-punk) — 8pm. \$25

SATURDAY JULY 19

ARABLE BREWING COMPANY Brook Adams (classic rock) — 6pm.

BERGARDEN Cherry Hill (bluegrass) — 7:30pm.

BUGSY'S Swamp Creek (classic rock) — 8pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Amor Fati (indie rock) — 7pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Apismellifera & Dirk Jeffrey (Americana) — 7:30pm.

HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Walker T Ryan (Americana) — 7pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Foxglove (jazz) — 7pm.

MCKENZIE GENERAL STORE & OBSIDIAN GRILL Karyn Ann (singer-songwriter) — 6pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE DJ Rortron — 7pm.

OREGON WINE LAB Live at the LAB: Axon (country) — 5pm.

SARVER WINERY Cinder & Song (bluegrass) — 3pm.

SPENCER CREEK GROWERS MARKET Forest Mountain Lion (folk rock) — noon.

TALLMAN BREWING DRTR (swampytonk) — 5pm.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY Geofrey Mays (guitar) — 6pm.

THE EMBERS The Survivors (classic rock) — 8pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Bossa-naire (jazz) — 7:30pm. \$25

WANDERING GOAT COFFEE COMPANY Blood Stained Concrete & Terror Cell Unit & Prager Youth & Perish Crooks & Clyde McGee (dark folk) — 6pm. \$10-15

SUNDAY JULY 20

ALESONG BREWING AND BLENDING Live Music — 4pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Goth Night w/ Church Noir — 9pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Sugar Beets (roots) — 4pm.

EUGENE MASONIC CEMETERY Oregon Tuba Ensemble — 6pm.

MONROE PARK The Future Belongs Here (classical) — 6pm.

PUBLICHOUSE Epiphonic (jazz) — 3:30pm.

PUBLICHOUSE Open Mic w/ Host AMBLIN — 5:30pm.

WANDERING GOAT COFFEE COMPANY Keysmash & Sorrows & St Sophie & Stresser (post-hardcore) — 7pm. \$10

MONDAY JULY 21

BEERGARDEN Bluegrass Jam w/ Belltower — 6pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Funk Yo' Monday w/ Alexander East — 8pm.

HAPPY HOURS Open Mic — 8pm.

HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic — 5pm.

TUESDAY JULY 22

HAPPY HOURS Rich Fisher (singer-songwriter) — 6:30pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Rooster's Blues Jam — 6pm.

WEDNESDAY JULY 23

AXE & FIDDLE Tappin' Talent — 8pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Millennial Night w/ DJ Amaya — 9pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Bluegrass Jam Session — 6pm.

HERITAGE COURTYARD AT OAKWAY CENTER Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 5:30pm.

ISLAND PARK Natsukashii Soul (funk) — 5:30pm. FREE-\$3

LUCKY'S CLUB Funk Night Eugene — 9pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB GoatMouth (blues) — 7pm.

MCKENZIE GENERAL STORE & OBSIDIAN GRILL Jerry Zybach Blues — 6pm.

MONROE PARK The Future Belongs Here (classical) — 6pm.

OAKSHIRE COMMONS Live Music — 6pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

SPRINGFIELD EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — 7-11pm.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY Southtowne Saints (jazz) — 6pm.

THE HYBRID-EUGENE Messenjah Selah & Dre Z Melodi & Michael Leslie (reggae) — 8:30pm. \$20

THE JAZZ STATION Joanne Broh Band ft. Garry Meziere (jazz) — 7:30pm. \$25

WOW HALL Town Mountain (country) — 8pm. \$22.50-27.50

EUGENE'S BEST ROCK SHOW THIS SUMMER



See Frankie and the Witch Fingers at a small venue like WOW Hall while you can

BY WILL KENNEDY

FRANKIE AND THE WITCH FINGERS

Photo by @deathbyjames

L.A.

band Frankie and the Witch Fingers arrive

in Eugene July 18 at WOW Hall behind one of the most dynamic rock records of the year, *Trash Classic*, and astride perhaps the most compelling rock show in the business.

Frankie guitarist and singer Dylan Sizemore tells *Eugene Weekly* in a

phone call he's "too ADHD" to write a concept record, stressing Frankie lyrics are mostly his, but Witch Fingers' songs are collaborative.

But like past Frankie records, *Trash Classic* — the band's eighth, along with several other EPs and live albums — offers concept-like themes.

This time, early MTV synthesizers add a new wave edge to the Witch Fingers'

Camaro-driving hard rock, spastic punk and exacting prog-rock influenced songwriting.

The record is also somewhat topical: "Surrender to inflation!" Sizemore sings on "Economy." The album opens with the cacophonous sound of switching TV channels, before segueing into "T.V. Baby."

"This is overstimulating!" Sizemore exclaims in the song, referencing modern media overload, over a looping, stop-start guitar riff and battering beat.

Frankie's 2023 album *Data Doom*, meanwhile, featured horn arrangements, providing an unlikely Afro-funk feel to the music that, on record as on stage, seems propelled by a ripcord: You may hear power pop similar to The Knack, and Primus-style avant-garde merrymaking, especially in Sizemore's singing voice, which sometimes recalls an angry Weird Al (and that's a compliment).

Particularly on *Trash Classic*, though, Sizemore's band nods to Devo in herky-jerky grooves, strange sci-fi influenced imagery and Atari-era electronic textures, reminding us that Devo were once a formidable, groundbreaking punk band before they became a "whip-it-good" punchline.

This is especially true of songs like "Eggs Laid Brain," which begins with a buzzing keyboard line, developing into a pulsing beat and an explosive, shout-along chorus.

"When it clicks, it feels amazing," Sizemore says of his band performing those songs and more in concert, and the uncanny racket the band makes on stage.

"That's why we all do it," he says. "At the end of the day, we're trying to get to not thinking about things, and you're just in the performance."

The Witch Fingers formed around Sizemore and the multi-instrumentalist Josh Menashe, who've been the core

of the band since it started in 2013 in Bloomington, Indiana, before relocating to L.A. around 2015, Sizemore says.

These days, Frankie's rhythm section consists of Nicole "Nikki Pickle" Smith on bass and Nick Aguilar on drums, who together are a reminder that once upon a time, punk, hard rock and metal adjacent music could also have groove. John Modaff rounds out the sound on synthesizers.

Frankie songs are "disjointed versions of what I'm thinking about,"

Sizemore says. "I'm a daydreamer," he says, who thinks about "really weird things all the time. That's the sort of stuff that ends up being mish-mashed into the lyrics."

"For this last record, having synthesizers and having things be more punk and immediate was what we were going for. Then the stuff we were listening to that fit into that category made its way into the record: That early, synthy punk sort of feel," he says.

Frankie and the Witch Fingers have been around a while, amassing a cult following. They've opened for ZZ Top and Cheap Trick, and toured with neo-garage rock hipsters Ty Segall and The Oh Sees. In a just world, *Trash Classic* would be their headliner breakthrough.

"There's making music on a creative level: Friends doing what they love to do, which is how we started," Sizemore says.

"Then, especially when we moved out to L.A., there's a sense of like, trying to make it our living. And there's a lot of sacrifice and hard work that goes into that. People have their lives, and things happen," he says.

Still, he adds, the band is "about finding good friends and people you like to create with, but also finding people down to make those sacrifices."

Frankie and the Witch Fingers play with Dutch garage rockers Iguana Death Cult 8 pm Friday, July 18, at WOW Hall, 291 West 8th Avenue. Tickets are \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. The show is all ages.

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40 YEARS OF THE ASIAN CELEBRATION



The annual event was founded with the need and passion for building community. It takes place July 19.

BY SEIRA KITAGAWA

This year, the Oregon Asian Celebration features the Year of the Snake per the Chinese zodiac, and a snake often symbolizes wisdom. “The Year of the Snake is a time for transformation and renewal,” David Tam, the event director, says in a statement. “It’s a time to welcome

wisdom, growth and new beginnings.”

As the celebration reaches its 40th anniversary, music, dances and delicious foods from Asian cultures welcome the whole community on Saturday, July 19.

Visitors can expect traditional and contemporary music, dance and martial arts alongside Asian cuisine. Haiku and tanka exhibits will feature student poetry, organized by *Skipping Stones Magazine*. If you like to sing, there is a karaoke contest at 7 pm.

Aimee Yogi wears multiple hats in the community in Eugene and Springfield. She is an active volunteer at Asian American Foundation of Oregon, Japanese American Association of Lane County, Hospice of Sacred Heart, Hearts for Hospice and Eugene Springfield Community Emergency Response Team. She reflects on how 40

years ago Ada Lee, who came to Eugene for Bushnell University from Hong Kong, took the lead in building the Asian American community here.

Yogi says that Lee’s commitment to supporting people from China and Hong Kong contributed to so many Chinese restaurants opening in the area and more impacts beyond that.

Yogi notes that because the Asian American population was assimilated and a minority, they did not do cultural things for a while, and it was “invisible,” which led young people to consider moving to bigger cities with larger Asian American communities.

She adds that the 1980s was also when student identity movements — such as Black power and the American Indian Movement — were happening across the nation. “Students spoke up to know their identity and who they really are,” Yogi says. Following the other identity groups, Asian American youth also sought their own culture and identity.

“Part of building Asian Celebration was to showcase the values we hold in family and community,” Yogi says, “but also we wanted to show our community and children that we are proud of being Asian Americans and proud of promoting and selling Japanese, Chinese and Korean items.”

At this year’s event, several programs are specially planned for children and youth. They can pick up a Year of the Snake Passport to get stamped at 12 different locations and be eligible for prizes. This year, Japanese sumo by Portland Sumo will be joining for the first time, and there is space for visitors to try martial arts such as kids karate at 3:30 pm.

Waka Daiko is a Eugene-based taiko group for ages 8 to 18 that has performed at many events in Eugene and nearby areas, including the Oregon Asian Celebration. Jean Lee, Ada Lee’s daughter, is the group’s director. She says that Waka Daiko was formed in the 1990s by children of Eugene Taiko, an adult taiko performing group to create a space for their children to enjoy taiko drumming.

Noah Adams, incoming sophomore in college, joined Waka Daiko seven years ago, and he says that drumming taiko makes him feel more confident. Adams

also mentors younger members. “It was difficult at first, but now it is very good for leadership experiences,” he says.

Sam and Lillia Adams, both Adams’ siblings, play taiko together and are excited for the upcoming performance. “I like the feeling of drums, it vibrates your body,” Lillia Adams says.

As the Asian American community started to grow in the 1980s, the city of Eugene recognized Lee’s community-building work and asked her to host a dinner inviting Asian American leaders with a small program with children singing folk songs.

Yogi says that the leaders liked it and said, “We should do this again and make it an annual event,” and it later became the Lantern Festival. They used to celebrate for 12 days around Lunar New Year, and the event was hosted in the basement of the former First Baptist Church, now The Shedd Institute.

“It was really popular because we brought all the Asian American families, and it was really fun.” The leaders realized that “we have a community,” and more than half of the leaders planning those events were from Hawaii, including Yogi. She says that Hawaiian people especially value family and community.

Jean Lee says that taiko and lion dance were the only performances at first. As the event grew, they started to use the agricultural building at the Lane Events Center, and brought vendors, arts and crafts tables, and entertainment from traditional Asian cultures. It was so popular that it continued to develop and subcommittees were formed.

After the pandemic, the festival moved outdoors to Alton Baker Park to avoid risk of COVID. Although there are some concerns about heat and possible air quality issues from wildfires, artists, vendors and performers continue to share the richness of Asian culture with the community. The Oregon Asian Celebration organizers encourage visitors to bring a refillable water bottle, a lawn chair, blanket or umbrella for comfortable viewing and for staying cool at the event.

Oregon Asian Celebration is 10 am to 9 pm Saturday, July 19, at Alton Baker Park, 200 Day Island Road. Admission is free, and you are encouraged to bike, walk or take LTD. Visit AsianCelebration.org for the event schedule and information.

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SAVAGE Love Privacy Settings

BY DAN SAVAGE

You often advise readers to move on all fronts: go places and meet people while also getting on the apps. It's just that I have a terrible fear holding me back from the apps and I think it's something only gay men have to worry about. To this day, I'm one of those faceless torsos that won't share my mugshot (or nudes) because I'm petrified of it being screenshots and posted online. It puts a pit in my stomach to see the way gay guys gossip about each other on forums like MaleGeneral, LPSG and now Telegram. I've seen so many friends wind up there for simply being horny. I can't think of anything more dehumanizing, demoralizing and degrading than having strangers comment on you and your body. Gay men can be so vicious to each other. I do alright in person, but never really meet someone who's my type. Is my apprehension justified? If not, what precautions can I take to avoid winding up on those awful online forums?

— Posting Intimate Cock Shots

It's not just gay men who have to worry about time-wasting pic collectors and malicious assholes reposting screenshots. Straight women have to worry about that shit, too, PICS, and some teenage boys have been tricked into sharing pics and then driven to suicide by blackmailers.

But let's not overstate the risk: millions of gay men swap pics online every day — torsos, faces, dicks — and the overwhelming majority don't wind up being dissected on the sites you mentioned. And even if your pics wound up on one of those shitty forums, PICS, it doesn't mean everyone you know is going to see them. And even if someone

does recognize you? Most people won't care.

I recently had Colby Jaxxx on the Savage Lovecast. Colby is a professional gooner who just so happens to live in a small town in the Midwest, where he works a pretty normie day job. His boss and co-workers know about his side hustle, and it hasn't been a problem. Because Jaxxx keeps his gooner life and his professional life in separate online silos. And that, increasingly, is the cultural consensus: so long as you don't cross the streams — so long as you don't post thirst-or-worst pics on your regular accounts — no one will see them except the people who go looking for them. And if someone is going out of their way to look for your smut, that's their problem, not yours. (This offer does not yet apply to people in teaching professions.)

So, take reasonable precautions — blur your face pics, use messaging apps that only allow one view of a photo, don't send out dick pics with your face in them or face pics with your dick in them, weed out guys who seem too good to be true (reverse image search is your friend), and be quick to block guys who make you feel uncomfortable — but don't let the guys talking shit on online forums keep you from living your best life and/or getting the best dick.

P.S. You won't know what's going on in those forums if you don't look at them.

I am the mom of an 11-year-old boy. For the past year, he's been using our sports massager privately in his room. When he first started doing it, he told me he was just putting it on his legs, and we talked about how it wouldn't be a good idea to put it directly on his penis. Every few days, sometimes with weeks in between, he'll announce, "I'm using the massager," then head to his room for a couple of minutes with it, and that's that. My only concern with this is that he might

desensitize himself. Having this tool at his age makes me worry he's going to develop unusual masturbation habits that might not be the best for him in the long term. I've thought about selling this massager, as he's really the only one who "uses" it, and that would quickly solve the problem. But is it a problem? Should I just leave him be to explore himself?

— Misuse Of Massager

Most boys begin masturbating around age 13, MOM, but some boys start sooner — 13 is the average — so your son most likely isn't using that sports massager on his legs. If he were using it on his legs, he would be doing it in front of the television and not in his room with the door closed. You worry he might become dependent on a particularly intense kind of stimulation in order to climax, MOM, and that's a valid concern. Some adult men have a hard time climaxing during partnered PIV/PIB/PIT intercourse because they jacked off as boys doing or using things that vaginas, butts, and throats can't replicate. (Google "death-grip syndrome" if you wanna read more about it.)

That said, your son has a right to privacy, and bursting through his bedroom wall like the Kool-Aid mom to slap the sports massager out of his hands could do him more harm. Instead, have an age-appropriate conversation with your son about self-pleasure — emphasizing privacy and online safety, and the distortion field that is porn — and discuss the importance of being gentle with himself. You could also run interference by misplacing (read: hiding) the sports massager and/or arranging for it to break and not rushing to replace it.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns, and more at SavageLove

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PERSONALS

I Saw You

To Nurse with a Purse, Patti, last Saturday at Fifth St. eateries, after No Kings March, lives touched, aka Lil Wayne, cell number flew away but not the memory. Please contact Lee Anne at McKenzie Willamette HR as my contact info.

Missed a Moment? Find It Again. Post in Eugene Weekly's "I Saw You" section and reconnect. Be sure to include your email for the best chance at a personal reply. Visit eugeneweekly.com/classifieds

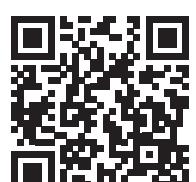
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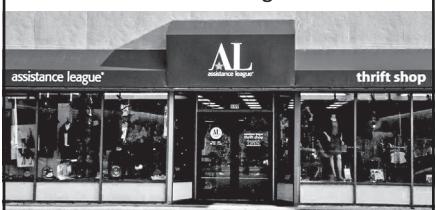
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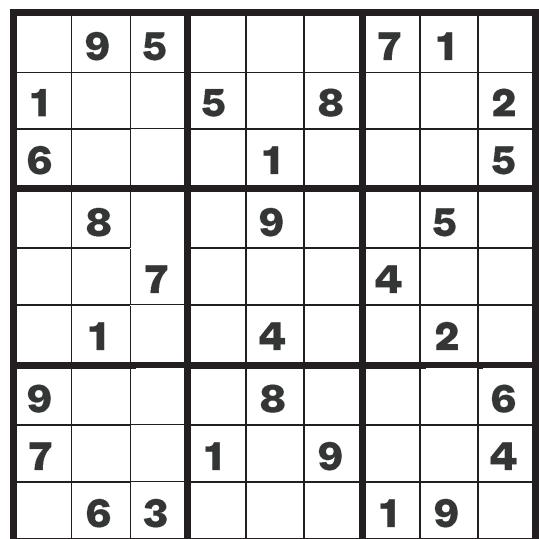
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Jonesin' Crossword BY MATT JONES

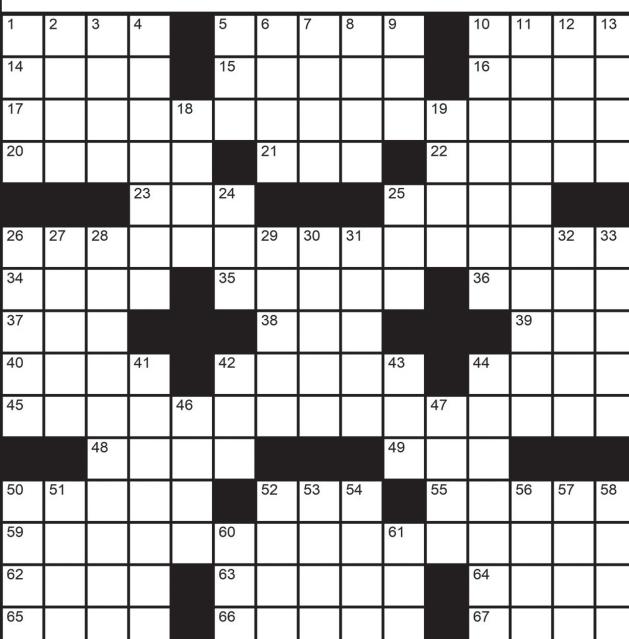
"Lead with the Lead"--oh, those two letters.

Across

- 1. Summer getaway
- 5. Soft-serve option
- 10. Ultra-fast flyers
- 14. Bread spread
- 15. Promising words
- 16. Maui party
- 17. 1998 Barbara Kingsolver novel, with "The"
- 20. 1983 Barbra Streisand musical
- 21. Word symbolized above 7 on a keyboard
- 22. Plant deeply
- 23. Big head
- 25. Mecca pilgrim
- 26. Principals in a company
- 34. "Horrors!"
- 35. They may get bounced around
- 36. "Oracular Spectacular" band
- 37. Dice dot

Down

- 38. Tennis return, sometimes 39. Pot-au-__ (French stew)
- 40. Australian postgrad schools
- 42. Trees with cones
- 44. Duck hangout
- 45. Pool, in other words
- 48. "Here's the surprise!"
- 49. Home of the U.S. version of "Have I Got News For You"
- 50. "A Town Like Alice"
- 52. Hardwood tree
- 55. Rightmost column in the periodic table
- 59. Temporary place to live before moving out, maybe
- 60. "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" subject
- 62. Finito
- 63. Justice Kagan
- 64. "M'A'S'H" actor Alan
- 65. Julia, in "Ocean's Eleven"
- 66. Alaskan carving
- 67. Slovenly sort
- 68. Sister in Chekhov's "Three
- 1. Plagiarize
- 2. Tissue additive
- 3. Chicken chow __
- 4. "Fifth wave" genre that sounds more like indie rock
- 5. "Carry On Wayward __" (song that actually doesn't have "My" in the title)
- 6. East Coast convenience store chain
- 7. "Put __ my tab"
- 8. Welsh comedian __
- 9. "Never Mind the Buzzcocks"
- 10. Snack once pitched by Randy "Macho Man" Savage
- 11. Temporarily replacing
- 12. Scheherazade's specialty
- 13. Took to court
- 18. Sister in Chekhov's "Three
- 19. With "The," Jeremy Allen White show
- 24. __-wan Kenobi
- 25. " __ the Greatest Dancer" (1979 Sister Sledge song)
- 26. Descriptor of some kids' books
- 27. Charging animal
- 28. How a week's news might be presented
- 29. Wing it
- 30. "Madam Secretary" actress Téa
- 31. Wine bottle feature
- 32. Fix, as text
- 33. Basic earrings
- 41. Thrasher magazine subscribers
- 42. Org. that might hold a bake sale
- 43. 2002 Winter Games host, initially
- 44. Straw hats
- 46. Idyllic place
- 47. "Bus Stop" dramatist William
- 50. Pick out in a crowd
- 51. Eat
- 52. Harald V's country
- 53. Support unlawfully
- 54. Rapper Big Daddy __
- 56. Successfully persuade
- 57. "The Samurai" novelist Shusaku
- 58. Attempt
- 60. Palindromic Vietnamese holiday
- 61. Dropout owner Reich



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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S



FREE WILL Astrology WEEK OF JULY 17

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): For the Dagara people of Burkina Faso, the element of fire has profound cultural meanings. It's a symbol of innovation and inspiration. It's a mediator between the physical and spiritual worlds and a conduit for communication with the ancestors. Through rituals, fire is a purifying and renewing force that helps people reconnect with their purpose, heal relationships and catalyze positive change in the community. In the coming weeks, Aries, I hope you will be deeply aligned with all these symbolic meanings. What are you ready to ignite for the sake of nurturing and care? What truths need light and heat? What future visions would benefit from surges of luminosity?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the Nahuatl language spoken by Indigenous Mexicans, the word *nepantla* describes an in-between space. It's a liminal threshold where a transition is in process. The old ways have fallen away, but the new ways are not yet fully formed. It's unsettling and perhaps confusing, yet seeded with the potential for creative change. I suspect you are now in a state resembling *nepantla*, Taurus. Please understand that this isn't a crisis. It's a chrysalis. Any discomfort you feel is not a sign of failure, but a harbinger of the wisdom and power that will come by molting the identity you have outgrown. I hope you will honor the rawness and speak tenderly to yourself. You are not lost; you are mid-ritual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The sea slug *Elysia chlorotica* is a small, unassuming creature that performs a remarkable feat: It eats algae and steals its chloroplasts, then incorporates them into its own body. For weeks afterward, the slug photosynthesizes sunlight like a plant. I believe, Gemini, that you are doing a metaphorical version of this biological borrowing. Some useful influence or presence you have absorbed from another is integrating into your deeper systems. You're making it your own now. This isn't theft, but creative borrowing. You're not copying; you're synthesizing and synergizing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ancient beekeepers in Anatolia carved hives directly into rock faces, coaxing honey from the cliffs. This practice was designed to protect bees from harsh weather and predators while maximizing honey production. The bees adapted well to their unusual homes. I suspect, Cancerian, that in the coming weeks, your sweetness and bounty may also thrive in unlikely structures. It could take a minute or two for you to adjust, but that won't be a problem. Your nectar-making instincts will guide you. So I advise you not to wait for the perfect container before beginning your work. Make honey in the best available setting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I laughed until I sobbed as you earnestly played the game of love even after the rules had changed. I sighed till I panted as you dredged up a new problem to avoid fixing an overripe hassle. I rolled my eyes until I got dizzy as you tried to figure out the differences between stifling self-control and emancipating self-control. But all that's in the past, right, Leo? Now I'm preparing to cheer until my voice is raspy as you trade in a dried-up old obsession in favor of a sweet, fresh, productive passion — and outgrow all the fruitless nuisances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The ancient scribes of Mesopotamia etched records onto clay tablets with styluses, pressing wedge-shaped marks into wet earth. Once baked, these tablets endured for thousands of years. Some are still readable today. In my astrological assessment, Virgo, you are undergoing a metaphorically comparable process. Messages and expressions that are forming within you are meant to last. They may not win you immediate attention and applause. But you already suspect how crucial they will be to both your own future and the destinies of those you care for. Be bold, decisive and precise as you choose your words.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Is there any aspect of your life or character that is still unripe even though it is critical to your life-long journey? Have you held on to your amateur status or remained a bit dilettantish beyond the time when you might have progressed to the next highest level? Are you still a casual dabbler in a field where you could ultimately become masterful? If you answered yes to these queries, now is a perfect moment to kick yourself in the butt and leap to the next level. Waiting around for fate to kick your butt would be a mistake.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Many astrologers rightfully say that Virgo is the most detail-oriented, meticulous sign. I think you Scorpions may be the most methodical and thorough of all the signs, which means that you, too, can be meticulous and detail-oriented. A prime example is the Scorpio sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917). Eventually, his work became world-renowned, but his career developed gradually because of his painstaking patience and scrupulous devotion to excellence. I propose we make him your role model for now. Inspired by him, resist pressure for immediate results. Trust in the slow, steady refinement process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Here are half of your words of power for the coming days: *windfall*, *godsend*, and *boon*. The other half are *potion*, *remedy*, and *healing agent*. If you're lucky, and I think you will be, those terms will blend and overlap. The blessings that come your way will be in the form of cures and fixes. I'm being understated here so as to not sound too wildly excited about your immediate future. But I suspect you will wrangle at least one amazing victory over hardship. Your chances of a semi-miraculous visitation by a benevolent intervention are as high as they have ever been.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The ancient Chinese character for "listening" contains symbols for ears, eyes and heart. I interpret this to signify that it's not enough to seek the truth with just one of your faculties. They must all be engaged and working together to get the full story. You are wise to survey the world with your whole being. Keep these meditations in mind during the coming weeks, Capricorn. Your natural inclination is to be practical, take action, and get things done. But for now, your main superpower will be listening to everything. So my advice is to listen with your skin. Listen with your breath. Listen with your gut. Let your attention be so complete that the world softens and speaks to you about what you really need to know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you would like to glide into rapt alignment with astrological rhythms, give gifts to your two closest allies. These offerings should inspire their ambitions, not indulge their cravings to be comfortable. They shouldn't be practical necessities or consumer fetishes, but rather provocative tools or adult toys. Ideally, they will be imaginative boons that your beloved companions have been shy about asking for or intriguing prods that will help beautify their self-image. Show them you love both the person they are now and the person they are becoming.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean photographer Ansel Adams is so renowned that he's in the International Photography Hall of Fame. We know the moment that his lifelong passion erupted. At age 14, his family gave him a simple camera and took him to Yosemite National Park in California. "The splendor of Yosemite burst upon us, and it was glorious," he wrote later. "One wonder after another descended upon us. A new era began for me." In the coming months, I foresee you encountering a comparable turning point, Pisces — a magical interlude awakening you to a marvel that will become an enduring presence in your life. Be alert for it. Better yet, declare your intention to shape events to ensure it happens and you're ready for it.

Homework: Make amends to the person you were in the past. They're still alive within you.
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